

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 15 OCTOBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1262-0-01 (ACCNO 0899) Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: LADEWIG, MELVIN EARL Date Status assigned: 8 Nov 1973

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	O +
Grade	O2	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	GREEN	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No	DATA	Height	68 in /1.73 mtrs	Weapon No	K580129
Birth date	8 Aug 1944	Weight	140 lb / 63.4 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	COLORADO	Religion	CATHOLIC	PW Camp	

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE
UTM: 48QXE456547
Lat/Long: 174033N / 1062223E
Country: NORTH VIETNAM
Military Region: 4
Mission Province: QUANG BINH
(formerly):
Mission District: BO TRACH
Mission Date: 24 Aug 1968 2235L
Mission Category: 3
Local Analysis: Near populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Jul 93, Mar 92
Investigations: Apr 93, Aug 93
Surveys: Aug 93
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: CRASH SITE
Survivability: (3) Unknown

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 8694
Crash Type: None	Engine Type: J7915
Call Sign: AGILE 02	1 Serial: 439752
Year: 66	2 Serial: 439893

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
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===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1262-0-02 (ACCNO 1052) Status: (8) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: READ, CHARLES H W JR (NMN) Date Status assigned: 26 Jul 1978

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	A +
Grade	O4	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BROWN	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No	DATA	Height	70 in /1.78 mtrs	Weapon No	K596516
Birth date	3 Feb 1929	Weight	168 lb / 76.1 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	FLORIDA	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

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=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

29 August 1975

ON 24 AUG 68, MAJ CHARLES H.W. READ JR., AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, AND 1LT MELVIN E. LADEWIG, PILOT SYSTEMS OPERATOR, WERE CREWMEMBERS ABOARD THE NUMBER TWO F4D (#66-8694) IN A FLIGHT OF TWO ACFT ON A NIGHT ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER NVN. IN THE TARGET AREA, NUMBER ONE FLARED THE AREA AS NUMBER TWO MADE HIS BOMB RUN. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, NUMBER ONE OBSERVED A FIREBALL AT GRID COORDINATES XE 456 547, LOCATED 1.3 MILES NORTHWEST OF THE TARGET. VISUAL AND RADIO CONTACT WITH NUMBER TWO WAS LOST. NUMBER ONE INITIATED SAR EFFORTS AND REMAINED IN THE AREA FOR 20 MINUTES ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT MAJ READ AND 1LT LADEWIG. NO PARACHUTES WERE SIGHTED AND NO BEEPER

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WAS TURNED OVER TO FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. MAJ READ AND 1LT LADEWIG ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, REMAINS NOT RECOVERED.

=== SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION ===

17 October 1984

SOURCE CLAIMED TO HAVE FOUND AN F4H OR F5 CRASHSITE, WITH TWO SETS OF REMAINS, IN A HILLY FORESTED REGION BETWEEN TROC (XE 3352) AND THO DON (VIC XE 5463). THIS POTENTIALLY CORRELATES TO 1LT MELVIN E. LADEWIG AND MAJ CHARLES H.W. REED JR. (REF 2)

=== REFERENCES ===

17 October 1984

REFERENCES: <1> RPT , BSCG AF FORM 484 W/STATEMENTS, 30 AUG 68. <2> REFCON 84-134, 26 JUNE 1984. <3> 010722Z JUN 93 CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH. <4> 240457Z SEP 93 CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

28 February 1986

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER ON MELVIN E. LADEWIG AND CHARLES H.W. READ WAS PASSED DURING THE 27-28 FEB 86 JCRC/VNOSMIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

CASE: 1262

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

2 April 1992

CASE NARRATIVE PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE DURING THE 30 MARCH 1992 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

20 August 1993

CASE NARRATIVE WAS PASSED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT DURING THE 28 JUL 1993 POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

29 August 1975

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: MELVIN E. LADEWIG 1261001, AND CHARLES H.W. READ JR. 1262002.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

11 September 1975

INCIDENT/LAST KNOWN LOCATION CHANGED FROM XE449536 TO XE456547 AND DELETE SECONDARY SITE BASED ON MSG, BTFW, 241715Z AUG 68.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

14 July 1993

THIS CASE WAS INVESTIGATED DURING THE 23 JFA (22 APR-24 MAY). IE1 INTERVIEWED A WITNESS WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION ON TWO INCIDENTS INVOLVING AIRCRAFT CRASHES. NO FIRM CASE ASSOCIATION COULD BE ESTABLISHED BUT, BASED ON THE GENERAL LOCATION AND TIME OF LOSS, THE POSSIBILITY OF A CORRELATION TO CASE 1262 EXISTS. (REF 3)

6 October 1993

ON 21 AND 22 AUG 93, A CONTINGENT OF IE1 TRAVELLED TO LIEN TRACH AND CU NAM VILLAGES, BO TRACH DISTRICT TO INVESTIGATE CASE 1262. THE TEAM INTERVIEWED THREE WITNESSES. ONE WITNESS PROVIDED FIRSTHAND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SHOOTDOWN OF A U.S. JET AIRCRAFT IN AUG 68 AND LIMITED HEARSAY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EJECTION OF ONE CREW MEMBER. THE SECOND WITNESS PROVIDED FIRSTHAND INFORMATION ON THE EJECTION AND BURIAL OF A CREW MEMBER AND LIMITED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CRASH OF A U.S. JET AIRCRAFT IN AUG 68. THE SECOND WITNESS REPORTEDLY PARTICIPATED IN THE BURIAL OF THE DOWNED CREW MEMBER. ABOUT TWO YEARS AFTER THE BURIAL,

CASE: 1262

UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS REPORTEDLY EXHUMED THE REMAINS. THE TEAM VISITED THE CRASH SITE AND DISCOVERED ONLY SMALL PIECES OF MATERIAL AND UNIDENTIFIED METAL FRAGMENTS. THE TEAM LATER VISITED THE REPORTED BURIAL LOCATION. ON 22 AUG 93, THE THIRD WITNESS APPROACHED THE TEAM AT THE ALLEGED BURIAL SITE. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE WATCHED THE BURIAL OF THE DOWNED CREW MEMBER. HE POINTED TO A SPOT ABOUT 1.5 METERS FROM THE AREA POINTED OUT BY THE SECOND WITNESS. THE TEAM DUG TEST PITS AT BOTH SITES. NO REMAINS, PERSONAL EFFECTS, OR EQUIPMENT WERE DISCOVERED. THE SITES WERE CLOSED BY THE ON-SITE CILHI REPRESENTATIVE ON 22 AUG 93. NUMEROUS KARST FORMATIONS AND THICK JUNGLE CONDITIONS MADE A SURVEY OF THE LAST KNOWN INCIDENT LOCATION HELD IN U.S. RECORDS AN UNSAFE RISK. ON 24 AUG 93, IE1 CONDUCTED AN AERIAL SURVEY OF THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE. NO EVIDENCE OF AN AIRCRAFT CRASH WAS DISCOVERED. (REF 4)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 3 FEBRUARY 1994

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METAL FRAGMENTS. THE TEAM LATER VISITED THE REPORTED BURIAL LOCATION. ON 22 AUG 93, THE THIRD WITNESS APPROACHED THE TEAM AT THE ALLEGED BURIAL SITE. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE WATCHED THE BURIAL OF THE DOWNED CREW MEMBER. HE POINTED TO A SPOT ABOUT 1.5 METERS FROM THE AREA POINTED OUT BY THE SECOND WITNESS. THE TEAM DUG TEST PITS AT BOTH SITES. NO REMAINS, PERSONAL EFFECTS, OR EQUIPMENT WERE DISCOVERED. THE SITES WERE CLOSED BY THE ON-SITE CILHI REPRESENTATIVE ON 22 AUG 93. NUMEROUS KARST FORMATIONS AND THICK JUNGLE CONDITIONS MADE A SURVEY OF THE LAST KNOWN INCIDENT LOCATION HELD IN U.S. RECORDS AN UNSAFE RISK. ON 24 AUG 93, IE1 CONDUCTED AN AERIAL SURVEY OF THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE. NO EVIDENCE OF AN AIRCRAFT CRASH WAS DISCOVERED. (REF 4)

• 3 February 1994

ON 21 AND 22 AUG 93, A JOINT TEAM INVESTIGATED A CRASH SITE AT GRID XE49645149. THE ITEMS RECOVERED ARE GENERIC IN NATURE AND CAN NOT BE CORRELATED TO ANY CASE OR AIRCRAFT. (REF 5)